

UB Knightlines

A World at Their Keyboards

UB unveils a bold, new chapter in distance learning with its Global Learning Initiative and reaches more students, like Kaitlyn Petrone, in Maine.



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ALSO INSIDE • Nice Kicks • Home Away from Home • Breathe Easy

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Knightlines is published three times a year for University of Bridgeport alumni and friends by the Office of University Relations.

Contents

Features

4 Nice Kicks

The athletic shoe market is worth \$50 billion annually. After being handpicked to train with the world's top sneaker designer, SASD student Dale Shepard is poised to thrive in this highly competitive industry.

8 Breathe Easy

Engineering Professor Miad Faezipour is harnessing smartphone technology to create an easy-to-use device for lung cancer patients.

10 A World at Their Keyboards

To better serve those students who are logging on to earn degrees, UB unveils a bold, new chapter in distance learning with its Global Learning Initiative.

16 Home Away from Home

UB unveils plans to build a beautiful new residence hall as the number of students living on camps continues to spike. Now all it needs is a name.

News Lines

18 Big Dog on Campus

19 Finding a Cure

20 Awarding his Drive

21 A Happy Ending

22 Open for Business

23 Promoting Peace and Understanding

Departments

3 Pipelines

27 Book Lines

24 Focus On: Larry Jasinski

26 Faculty Lines

28 Alumni Lines

32 Side Lines

36 Closing Thought

President's Line



Neil Albert Salonen

I'm often asked about the value of higher education. I'm not alone. Across the country, some 4,500 colleges and universities are being asked to show how they enrich students' lives.

Students come to UB from 82 nations and an equally breathtaking array of backgrounds: they may be the first in their families to attend college; they may be sons or daughters of alumni. Some are driven to harness technology to find solutions for the world's most pressing problems. Others use their creativity to develop products that enhance our daily lives. The University's mission is to guide students to pathways of opportunity so they may succeed no matter where those paths may lead.

We take our mission seriously, but we cannot and do not do it alone. As you'll read in this issue, the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business was officially opened at a ribbon cutting in September. The school is named in honor of longtime trustee and benefactor Ernest Trefz, and its beautiful features include the new Jacobsen Wing Lobby and the Raymond O'Hara Auditorium, which were provided by UB alumni Marian Heard '63 and trustee Thomas O'Hara '84.

Thanks to the generosity of these alumni, UB can better equip its business students with skills required to thrive in the global marketplace. At the same time, we are expanding the University's reach to those who want to earn advanced degrees through new online programs. Launched in January, the online MBA is one of many distance-learning programs at UB that are making a college education increasingly accessible.

Partnerships help UB enrich students' educational experience, too. This fall, the University and U.S. Peace Corps established the first and only academic program in New England to certify students to work in the agency's international service campaigns upon graduation. The program will be housed at the College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA), some of whose graduates currently work for the United Nations Development Program, the Council of Europe, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, among other institutions. Four of its faculty have been chosen as Fulbright Scholars, and since 2007, six CPIA students have been awarded the highly prestigious U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship.

Alumni and current students are making pivotal contributions in fields ranging from business to medicine to industrial design. As I read many of their stories in this issue, I am proud to affirm that UB and its partners—trustees, donors, other institutions—have done a remarkable job in ensuring that our graduates lead purposeful, highly productive lives. There is always more to do, so I invite you to join us. The rewards are invaluable.

Neil Albert Salonen
President

4



10



18



Editor's Note

According to a recent Gallup Poll, employed college graduates are more than twice as likely to be engaged at work and lead happier lives if they had a professor who cared about them personally, made them excited about learning, and encouraged them to follow their dreams. Nationally, just 14 percent of college grads report they had all three.

I couldn't help thinking about the poll as I edited this issue. Indeed, UB seems to zig where others zag. Thanks to its intimate 16 to 1 student faculty ratio, students are included in important academic research, are pushed to excellence, and are helped to find their way.

Fifty-five years after he graduated, for instance, alumnus Frank Dulin '59 writes *Knightlines* to publicly thank professor emeritus Dr. Charles Patitjeanin for making a difference in his life. (See "Pipelines," page 3.) When alumnus Larry Jasinski '84 earned his MBA at the University and landed his first offer with a large company, professors who knew him well talked him out of the job. They knew he was interested in innovation, and they urged him to follow his heart and work at a company that he could help grow. Jasinski listened, and today he's CEO of ReWalk Robotics, which just got FDA approval to sell an exoskeleton that allows paralyzed individuals to walk. As I write this, ReWalk is being dubbed the "hottest IPO of 2014" by the financial press, but Jasinski is staying focused. "I think the value in our stock was driven by the hope that we give hope to many people to improve their lives," he says. His advice to students? "Bring passion to what you do. Listen to your professors, they can give good advice. They did for me." For more about his amazing career, see "Focus On" on page 24.

Today, online education makes it possible to earn degrees without setting foot on campus. As you'll read in "A World at Their Keyboards" (page 10), UB has ensured that students taking online courses—like Brian Kluck in Rockford, Illinois—never feel isolated. When Kluck's wife Rhoda died of cancer soon after he began taking classes for a master's degree in Human Nutrition, his online classmates and teachers immediately reached out. "Her battle provided many opportunities to connect with other classmates and instructors," he says. "Their sharing of similar stories and successes along the way has provided me with extra nuggets to hang on to as I continue to help others who fight cancer through nutrition." Thanks to their encouragement Kluck will graduate this December.

Care and connections abound: School of Engineering professor Miad Faezipour's dedication to lung cancer patients has driven her work in creating BreathAssist ("Breathe Easy" on page 8). Dani, UB's furriest employee, soothes students who are homesick or stressed ("Big Dog on Campus" on page 18). Student Dale Shepard, a self-described sneaker fanatic majoring in industrial design, got invaluable guidance from former Nike designer D'Wayne Edwards while making connections to recruiters, designers, and others in the athletic shoe industry. (See "Nice Kicks" on page 4.) It's all part of UB's "real-world education," which is another way of saying, it's what happens when you attend a university that defies national polls and people care.

Leslie Geary
 Leslie Geary
 Editor, *Knightlines*

Pipelines



Nursing School

Dear Editor,

I was so happy to read that UB intends to develop a four-year nursing program ("Nursing School to Move to UB," Summer 2014). I graduated from just such a program at UB in 1967. We studied four full years and two summer sessions, and graduated with a BS in Nursing. Our clinical training took place at Park City, Bridgeport, and Newtown State Hospitals.

We need more BSN programs. I feel that graduates from those programs are better prepared than two-year nursing graduates, and some BSN grads will continue into academia, get master's degrees, and become nursing professors. Without teachers, we can have no students. Well-prepared nurses will always be needed.

Congratulations, and thank you for taking this step, UB. If there are any newsworthy updates on this four-year program, I'd love to hear about them.

Louise J. Mariana '67
 Mendocino, CA

Cheers for Patitjean!

Dear Editor,

The recent letter of Dr. Charles F. Patitjean that ran in the Summer 2014 section of "Pipelines" brought back fond memories of both my years at UB and of Dr. Patitjean. I attended the University from 1955 to 1959, receiving in my final year a BS cum laude in Business Education. I accepted a teaching position with the Freehold Regional High School District of New Jersey. I retired in 1987, after 28 years of high school teaching. During this time I earned a master's degree in German, then accepted a position with Deutsche Bank AG in New York City. I now live in northwestern Wyoming.

Throughout, Dr. Patitjean was a professor I always greatly admired and respected. It is my understanding that he was instrumental in my selection as Outstanding UB Business Education Student in 1959. So many years have gone by, and I am not sure if Dr. Patitjean remembers, but I just wanted to say "thank you" again.

Frank Dulin '59
 Frannie, WY

Got an opinion?

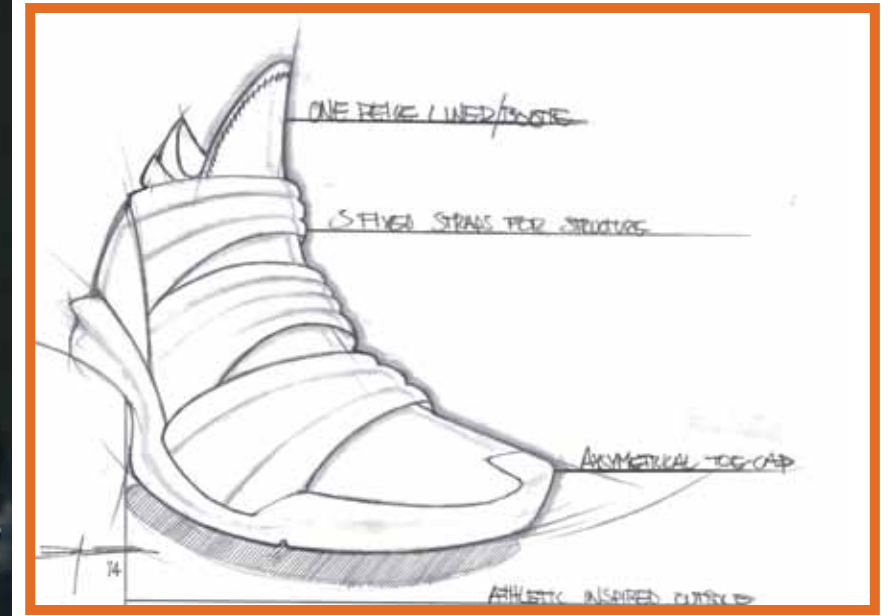
Knightlines would love to hear from you! Please send Letters to the Editor to knightlines@bridgeport.edu or at Knightlines, Cortright Hall, University of Bridgeport, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year (if applicable). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, style, or accuracy.



Nice Kicks

The athletic shoe market is worth \$50 billion annually and growing. After being handpicked to train with the world's top sneaker designer, SASD industrial design student Dale Shepard is poised to thrive in this lucrative field.

By Leslie Geary



UB student Dale Shepard pitches a new shoe he created for Android Homme at Pensole Footwear Design Academy in Oregon. Both renderings are his.

What's in a shoe?

If it's an athletic shoe, big bucks.

In the United States, the athletic footwear industry is worth \$50 billion annually, and manufacturers are searching hard for talented designers to become the market leader in the industry.

The problem? "There hasn't been a pipeline," says D'Wayne Edwards, who's created more than 500 styles for Nike, Jordan, and other brands that have sold more than \$1 billion worldwide.

"Designing performance footwear is similar to creating cars or other products. The innovation is constantly evolving," Edwards continues. "But you have to understand how to build a shoe, and that's what's missing in college kids' portfolios. There are no hard skills from a critical thinking point of view. That's why they're not getting jobs."

After winning a coveted fellowship with Edwards, UB student Dale Shepard, 23, is well on his way to a promising career.

This spring, Edwards personally handpicked Shepard—an industrial design major at the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design—from a field of more than 500 students from 16 countries who vied to attend

(continued on page 6)



UB student Dale Shepard (second from left) at work with students at Pensole Footwear Design Academy.

PENSOLE Footwear Design Academy, the school that Edwards founded in Portland, Oregon, to train promising young designers.

For four weeks, Shepard and 19 other students worked around-the-clock to conceive of, create, market, and pitch cutting-edge shoes that would appeal to CEOs, design directors, recruiters, and other executives from footwear companies like Nike, adidas, Under Armour, and more. They worked in teams to deliver new footwear that was on time, within budget, and creatively out of this world.

"I've always been a sneaker person," Shepard said. "But this has been really cool. You see how big a role this plays in certain people's lives."

To win one of the 20 slots at Pensole, where Edwards covered full tuition for every student, Shepard was required to submit a single pencil-drawn picture of an athletic shoe. Edwards reviewed them all before picking 20 students; he wouldn't accept computer renderings.

"From a corporate perspective, they want to see who can use their hands. Anyone can use a computer. What can you do with your hands?" (After proving themselves with pencils, students then learned 3-D modeling on computers.)

Shepard's illustration caught Edwards's eye because of its "proper proportions and his understanding of how footwear should be made," Edwards said. "He has good sketching skills."

Still, there was much to learn. Edwards teaches classes with other pros, like Suzette Henry, a materials director who's designed for signature footwear, such as Jordan's 19-25, Carmelo Anthony, and Derek Jeter. Creative directors, CEOs, and recruiters also guided students. The takeaway: sneakers have to tell a particular brand's story.

The sneakers Shepard and two classmates were directed to create for Android Homme, for instance, had to appeal to the brand's deep-pocketed hipsters who spend hundreds of dollars to wear the Android Homme aesthetic: urban, ultra-cool, high-functioning designs fashioned out of crocodile, durable ballistic nylon, silky suede, and other luxury materials.

Pensole's no-nonsense, from-the-ground-up approach to teaching footwear design is working. Since its launch in 2010, more than 60 of Edwards's graduates have gone on to work full-time or intern at footwear companies worldwide, including Nike, Jordan Brand, adidas, Converse, Reebok, DC, ecco, Columbia Sportswear, Bluehaven, AND1, North Face, New Balance, Wolverine, Cole Haan, Under Armour, and Stride Rite.

That winning streak caught the attention of *Sports Illustrated*. While Shepard worked 14-hour days under Edwards's guidance, reporters from the magazine covered the story of their experience. Their designs were then posted at www.si.com.

"I've never done so much work in my life, so it was a wake-up call in terms of knowing how much work is required. It was one of the best experiences of my life, even though I was working the entire time," says Shepard. "I networked a ton with a bunch of designers from Nike and got some great feedback. My main focus is to keep working to strengthen my personal design skills so I go from being a student to being a professional. I would say I'm on my way." ■



Photos by Cathy Cheney

Engineering Professor Miad Faezipour is harnessing smartphone technology to help lung cancer patients.

Breathe Easy

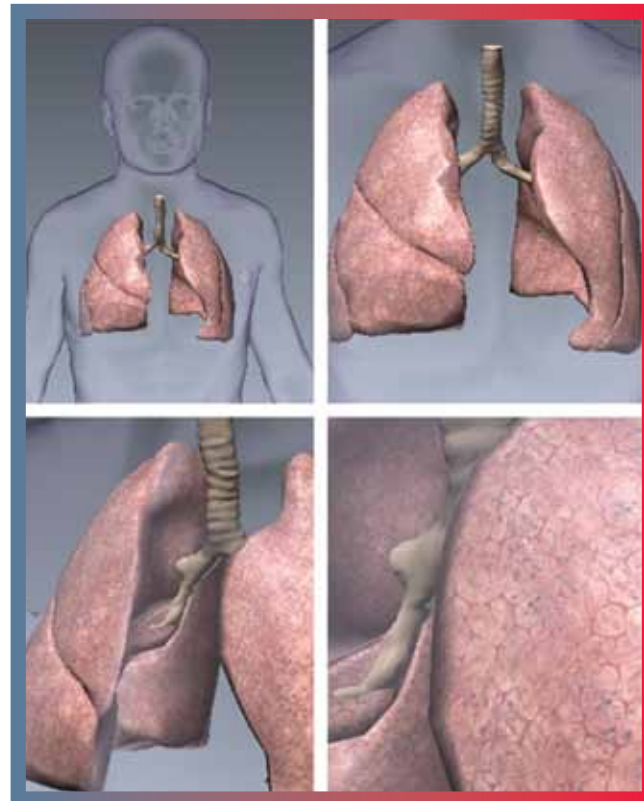
By Leslie Geary

For patients with emphysema, asthma, lung cancer or other lung-related illnesses, the loss of normal breathing doesn't just impact the quality of everyday life, it can be scary and highly confusing, too. Patients who use a spirometer to monitor their levels of respiratory functioning, for instance, can find the device to be bulky and potentially confusing since its measurements have to be interpreted by the patient.

That's concerned Miad Faezipour, an assistant professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Biomedical Engineering at UB. For the past two years, Faezipour has developed a device that more easily provides patients with medical information about their breathing. This data is invaluable because it helps patients virtually see how their breath is regulated, guiding them to more appropriate treatment.

The key to her device? Smartphone technology, which Faezipour has harnessed to create a portable, user-friendly virtual relation biofeedback tool, called BreatheAssist, that patients can use as to detect, record, analyze, and classify their breathing movements, inhalation, exhalation, and pauses between breaths. (Virtual reality imagery for the immune system has been documented since the mid-1990s. Biofeedback, the process of translating physiological measurements into meaningful data output for self-analysis regulation, has been used to manage migraines to high blood pressure and chronic pain.)

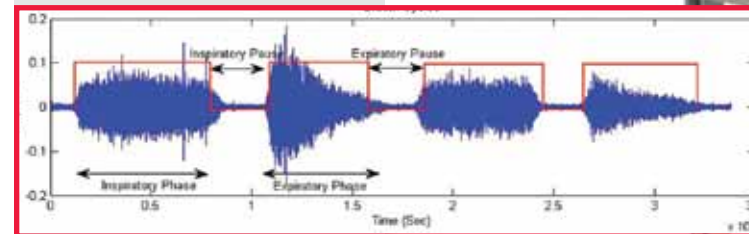
"I envisioned BreatheAssist to help individuals regulate their breath, which is considered one of the more useful treatments for patients with breathing disorders," said Faezipour. "It's designed as a smartphone app, there-



fore it's portable and can always be carried along with the patient."

One of the features that sets Faezipour's device apart from current models is that it uses algorithms to differentiate the acoustics of real breathing as opposed to ambient noise, such as traffic, background television, or conversations. The device also has the capacity to project in real time a highly detailed animation of a patient's lung function. In this way, Faezipour hopes that her easy-to-use device can be utilized anywhere.

"We have the program and hardware in place," she says. "It's working. If we want a user to breathe into the microphone, they can see a screen that's virtually showing their breathing movements. We have animation on screen



Miad Faezipour (center), with graduate assistants, has been developing an easy-to-use system for patients to see how they breathe.



that corresponds to inhalation and exhalation. It's all in real time."

To use BreatheAssist, patients would simply load its app onto their smartphone, breathe into the phone's microphone, and *voila!*, the animated images of their breathing instantly appear on the smartphone screen.

To ensure the application is as easy to use in the real world as it is in her laboratory, Faezipour is in the process of finding physicians who will help evaluate the device in clinical settings. "We don't want to just have an application for monitoring breathing movements," Faezipour says. "We really want the application to be useful among patients with lung cancer or breathing disorders."

She's also seeking grant money to enhance what she's already developed. Her ultimate goal: to create a

groundbreaking device that also detects the specific kind of breathing disorder a patient has. "You would be able tell if it's asthma or lung cancer by just the breathing movements," she says, adding that "current tools don't include the features of breathing movement monitoring along with differentiating the breathing disorder category."

In the meantime, her work is attracting attention. She and PhD student Ahmad Abushakra, who worked as a research assistant, have already published three journal articles on their research in peer-reviewed journals such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' *IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics* and have presented components of their work at several IEEE conferences. ■

UB unveils a bold, new chapter in distance learning with its Global Learning Initiative.

A World at Their Keyboards

By Jackie Hennessey

When Brian Kluck's wife, Rhonda, was diagnosed with cancer, he wanted to do something—anything—to help her get better. A service engineer at United Technologies Aerospace, he figured the best route was to study how diet played a role in healing.

Rhonda began researching programs around the country for him and was quickly drawn to the University's online Human Nutrition program, the oldest online program at UB, the first of its kind in the state, and one of the first in the country. Its emphasis on integrative medicine, the biochemical and physiological study of nutrition, and its role in health and disease, and the program's flexibility resonated with Rhonda. "This is the one," she told him.

Kluck applied, registered, and was just starting classes in 2009 when Rhonda died.

"That was a very hard time," he said. At that point, almost everything told him to give up the idea: he and his two daughters were grieving; he was heading his household alone; he had a demanding work life, and he lived 850 miles from the UB campus, in Rockford, Illinois. But he couldn't let go of the desire to learn all he could about nutrition for his daughters' health, for his own, and because he one day wanted to pass on whatever he learned to others.

He quickly discovered he was part of the UB community. His professor asked how he could help, rescheduling tests and assignments. His classmates reached out, too. Kluck found discussion posts—typically lively exchanges on course-related topics—"offered opportunity for real life to be shared," he said.

"My story of Rhonda's cancer and her battle provided many opportunities to connect with other classmates and instructors. Their sharing of similar stories and successes along the way has provided me with extra nuggets to hang on to as I continue to help others who fight cancer through nutrition."

(continued on page 12)

Photo by Victoria Ascue





Brian Kluck with his wife Rhonda and their two daughters in their last family photo before Rhonda passed away.

This December, Kluck will receive his master's degree in Human Nutrition. "I'm very happy I stayed with it," he said. "And I know Rhonda would be, too."

Kluck is one of 607 UB students enrolled in 115 online courses in nine degree programs, a number that is growing both here and across the country. Of the 21 million college students in the U.S., 7.1 million took online courses in 2013, according to the Babson Survey Research Group.

The University, named to *US News and World Report's* "Best Online Education Programs" for the past two years, was a distance learning pioneer back in 1997. Today, UB is in the midst of its most ambitious distance learning plan to date: launching the Global Learning Initiatives (GLI), to create more online programs, improve and streamline existing distance learning programs, and provide "across-the-board support to bring UB's family of online programs under one umbrella," said GLI Director Hap Aziz. "Content offered online will incorporate a greater variety of resource materials and will be more engaging for students and instructors."

At the heart of the GLI's vision is the development of new online programs, and this past spring, UB introduced an online MBA program, an MA program in global development and peace and, this fall, a BS in professional studies with concentrations in health care administration, human resources management and organizational leadership and change.

"We have hundreds of distance learning students taking classes around the world, from the Middle East to the Mid-Atlantic, and we expect that number to grow to into thousands in the coming years," said Tara Maroney, GLI's assistant director of student advising and communications. "As we grow, GLI will help us continue to evolve as a leader in distance learning."

The faculty, staff, and students now use Canvas, a Learning Management System (LMS), which Maroney and Claude Perrottet, a faculty trainer and adjunct professor of philosophy and world religions, called highly intuitive and much more accessible than the earlier LMS. Hugh McNally, GLI's media producer, said it is easier to embed audio and video as Canvas features an array of enhanced technologies. Instructional designers have been hired to collaborate with professors and instructors on course design. "So the subject matter experts can do what they do best, focus on content, and the designers can help them shape the online course," Perrottet said.

Robust training is central to the GLI's mission. Fifteen years ago when Perrottet and Kris Bickell, director of online learning, were designing online courses, how-to's were hard to come by on the Web. So they developed their own online teaching strategies, tinkered with them, sought out ideas from colleagues, and fashioned a strong training program for faculty that addresses the nuances of online instruction.

The essence of online teaching, Perrottet said, is being present for all students, seemingly at all times, but at the same time striking a balance in a 24/7 schedule. The key, he said, is to look for the opportune moments when a student needs to be pushed to deepen his or her thinking.

He recalled when a student, a dental hygienist in his online philosophy course, helped him crystallize what good online teaching was. The student was very interested in the teachings of Confucius.

"She started to discuss another philosopher whose teachings were similar to his but she had the wrong name and I stopped to mention that to her and told her about him and another philosopher and his work," Perrottet said. "That led to this extraordinary discussion thread where she began referring to all of these obscure early Chinese philosophers. She decided to do additional research and discovered so much that she taught me! It wouldn't have happened if I hadn't stopped to correct her and encourage her to look further."

Students say the University's online programs provide the freedom and flexibility they crave along with a genuine sense of rootedness. UB's online students are entrepreneurs, bankers, teachers, engineers, and employees at non-profits who don't have the opportunity to chat and collaborate with classmates over lattes at the Scribe Café. Instead they might log on to a discussion thread near midnight, after working an eight-hour day, making dinner or dashing to a child's soccer game. Still, they want to feel a part of something.

Enter Maroney, who in her adviser role, checks in. Whether students are interning in the Middle East, studying engineering from their home in Iowa, or doing course work in a California coffeehouse, they can expect Maroney to e-mail and ask how they're doing and if there might be campus resources she can connect them to.

"We want our online students to know we are absolutely committed to their success," she said.

Kaitlyn Petrone of Waterville, Maine, said that commitment is palpable. A physical therapist at a skilled rehab facility, she set her sights on becoming a program manager there but needed a bachelor's degree first. With two jobs and a tight budget, getting the degree would be difficult. UB's online BS in general studies enables her to take two manageable courses in eight-week sessions and finish in two years. "That really helped me financially and allowed me to keep working," Petrone said. The courses in psychology, sociology, and management are directly applicable to the position she seeks and the one she has now.

Best of all, she said, is that she's never felt like she's been studying alone. "My professors are very supportive and easy to get a hold of," she said.

Many of the same students turn up again and again in her classes and they have become part of the fabric of her learning life. "I like 'seeing' the same people online 'around campus,'" she said. "People ask me where I go to school and I tell them 'I go to school in Bridgeport, Connecticut,' because that's what it feels like, even though I'm in Maine." *(continued on page 14)*

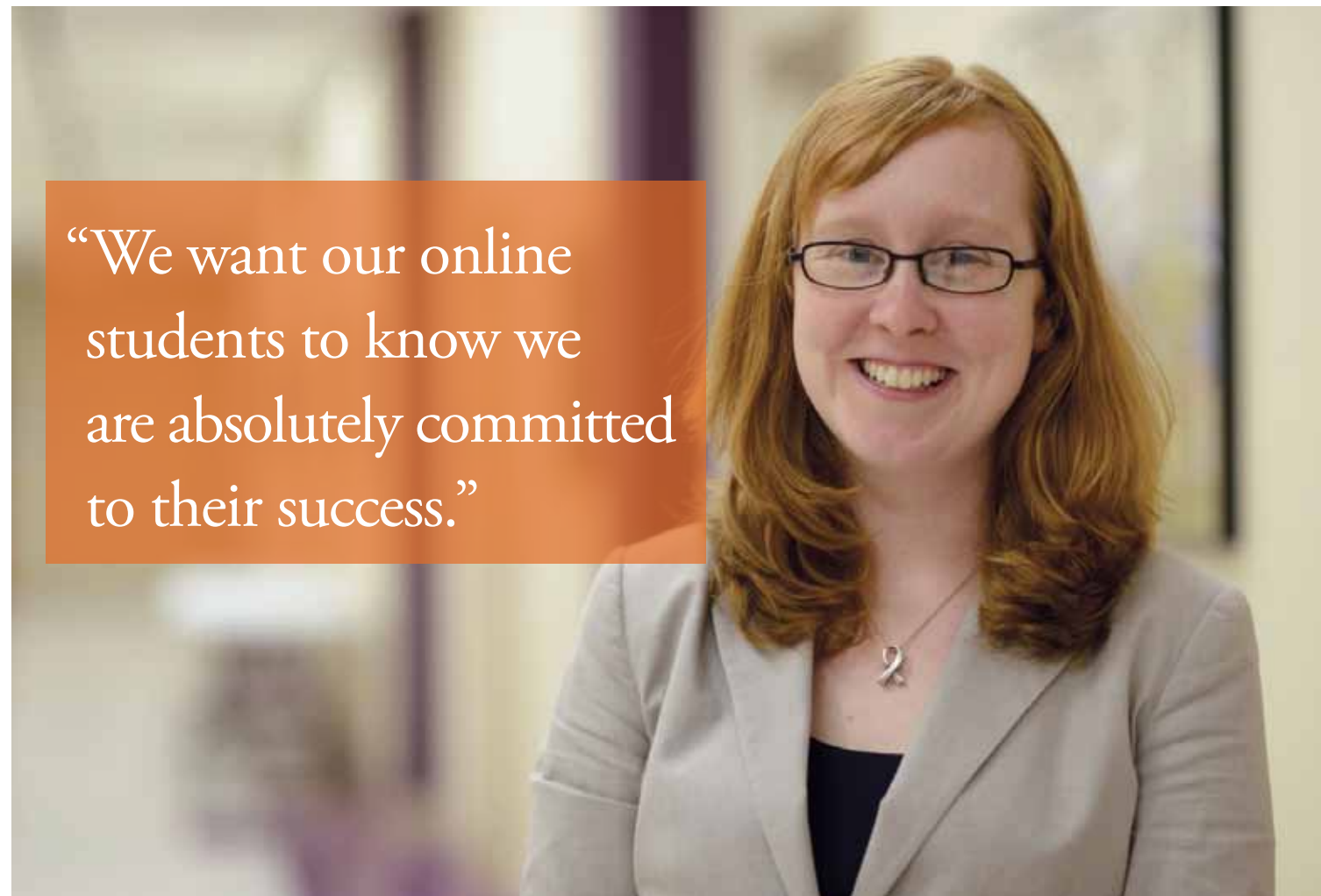


Kaitlyn Petrone in Waterville, Maine.



Photos by Joseph Devenny

“We want our online students to know we are absolutely committed to their success.”



Tara Maroney, assistant director of student advising

That focus on connection begins even before students enroll, as the GLI's website offers tips to prospective and new online students. “Our online students need to understand the discipline it takes to succeed,” Bickell said. On the site, students are encouraged to follow a weekly schedule, which includes visiting the course two to three times each week to interact with instructors and participate in discussion as much as possible.

Pitiffany Bradley, who is pursuing her MA in Global Development and Peace, did just that. She devised a weekly schedule like one she would have on campus; attending class the same time several days each week, in addition to course work outside the classroom. She delved into discussions, raised questions, and realized there was nowhere to hide in an online class.

“On-campus courses sometimes allow a student to sneak by without being as participatory as other students,” she said. “I am guilty of this sometimes, due to my shy nature. But the online courses pushed everyone and their ideas into the spotlight. The fact that it was

not a face-to-face discussion allowed students to be more responsive, interrogative, and bold.”

The program also spoke to Bradley because it was designed with someone like her in mind, combining online flexibility with an on-the-ground global internship experience, crucial to someone who plans to one day work in the U.S. diplomatic corps. The internship, set up through the University, brought her to Amman, Jordan, where she works in a financial department, researching and writing grant proposals while she also takes Arabic and other courses online.

That's a hallmark of UB online: programs are creatively designed with the student's future or current career very much in mind. The new 30-credit online MBA program was created with input from business leaders and working professionals. It features core business foundation classes, in-depth management courses and capstone courses that integrate each student's learning in practical situations and can be completed in a year.

Lloyd Gibson, dean of the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business, who in a long banking career was the president



Photos by Eric Suvar

and CEO of three different community banks, said that like him, the online MBA faculty members are “ambidextrous. They have the academic qualifications and they are professionals with years of experience, leaders in their field. They bring rigor and dynamic teaching to their online students and they can speak to what is happening right now in their field.”

Mohammad Najam, an online MBA student, can attest to the rigor and real-world applications. A senior vice president at Santander Bank in New Jersey, Najam is in his office by 8 a.m. and is often there long past six at night. So, he gets up each morning as the sun is just rising, pours himself some coffee, and, while the house is still, settles in at the kitchen table to read his *Organizational Behavior* textbook. After dinner and time with his wife and children, he's back at the table studying. Much of his weekend is spent reading and researching too. Just three courses into his MBA, he has seen tangible results.

“My professors provide cutting-edge information,” he said. “It allows me to rethink what I'm doing at work

and makes me see how I can do things better. I listen more; I see the larger picture. My classmates are working in different fields and they bring their own perspectives. I find myself considering their points of view when I am at work. It's all so relevant.”

Kluck, too, found the experience to be everything he hoped for: real-world relevant, intellectually challenging, flexible and personal. “It's such a great way to learn,” he said. “I did my coursework wherever my family was: on the deck, in the sitting room, at the kitchen table. If I was in New Zealand for work, I did my course work there.”

After graduation, the engineer and fitness instructor plans to start a blog or write a book, eager to take all he's learned about nutrition and its role in health and pass it on. “I'm constantly learning new things to share from this program,” he said. ■

Banking senior vice president Mohammad Najam earns his MBA online after work.

Home Away from Home

By Leslie Geary



The University unveils plans to build the first new residence hall in over four decades as the number of students living on campus continues to spike. Now all it needs is a name.

They came armed with measuring tapes, cell phone cameras, and parents. On April 12, more than 400 incoming students toured residence halls throughout campus. They inspected rooms, checked out the views, sat in lounge furniture, and even took measurements. And then they got to do something special: pick their room for the 2014–15 year.

“While almost all campuses nationwide place new students into rooms for the semester based on just paperwork, we provide our students with the ability to actually choose the room they will be in,” said Robert Vass, who is director of residential life and student conduct. “They see it as a definite perk.”

Room Selection Day, increased enrollment, and a slew of other new perks unveiled this year are igniting residential life. The total number of students opting to live on campus has jumped by 9 percent since 2011, and last year dorms were near 100 percent capacity.

To accommodate growing need, UB recently unveiled plans to open the first new residential building on campus since 1968, 46 years ago.

When it opens in the fall of 2016, the 221-bed residence hall will provide accommodations that include traditional two-person rooms and suite-style apartments. It will be located on University Avenue, in what is now an overflow parking lot, across from Schine Hall, which is being demolished. Antinozzi Associates in Bridgeport is the lead architect on the project.

“We looked at ways to renovate Schine. Unfortunately, it became cost prohibitive in order to meet today’s building codes and provide the kind of amenities expected by students today,” said Vice President for Facilities George Estrada. “But we’re really excited about

the opportunity to provide modern housing with 21st-century amenities for students.”

A naming opportunity exists for the new residence hall.

“More and more students want to live on campus. We work to make our halls more than just places to sleep. They are home for our students, no matter where in the world they come from,” said Vass.

Take Residence Life Cinema, a new streaming movie service that launched last fall. It allows users to see classics and blockbusters online and all for free. Students simply log on to a special website, and as long as they are in residence halls, they can choose from more than one dozen movies offered each month. In February, during Black History Month, students watched 190 showings of 42, the popular movie about Jackie Robinson.

It was just one of more than 6,000 movies viewed last year. During movie nights, films were broadcast on new flatscreen televisions that were installed in all the residence halls while students lounged on new newly upholstered furniture. Last spring, the first Hall Olympics kicked off with friendly and ferocious competitions in kickball, dodge ball, and other events. The daylong competition ended with a barbeque and bragging rights going to Seeley Hall, which emerged this year’s victor.

Events like these “don’t simply boost residence hall numbers,” said Vass. “They build camaraderie that’s critical to ensuring that students’ experience away from home is successful so they thrive in and out of the classroom.” ■

Illustration by Antinozzi Associates



What’s in a Name?

UB’s new residence hall presents historic opportunity.

A lot, actually.

Since the University of Bridgeport opened its doors, philanthropists have seized naming opportunities on campus. In 1927, Dr. Alfred C. Fones made a \$30,000 investment in the home that served as UB’s first official building. Today, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene School is still named in his honor.

Charles A. Dana, a major contributor to several campus buildings, was the primary benefactor of the Dana Hall of Science and named Eleanor N. Dana Hall in honor of his wife with a significant gift towards its construction. The University’s design school was finally named in 2010—the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design—after receiving a generous donation from alumnus and Board of Trustee Shintaro Akatsu ’88. Most recently, Trustee Ernest Trefz invested in the School of Business, which now bears his name.

With each new building comes another opportunity to recognize those who lend support to the University and provide for the next generation of students. Their names on our campus is reminder of that commitment.

If you’d like to join their ranks or learn more about naming opportunities available, please contact Emily Brady, director of annual giving, at embrady@bridgeport.edu or (203) 576-4542. ■

News Lines

Big Dog on Campus

UB students can now turn to Dani, a therapy dog, for stress release and loving care

By Leslie Geary

Students and staff at the University can feel better with a little tender, loving care from Dani, a registered therapy dog who, starting this fall, holds office hours at Carstensen Hall, thanks to a new wellness-based initiative launched by Counseling and Disability Services.

No appointment is necessary: Dani is in for those who need her—students, faculty, and staff alike.

“We’re pleased to have Dani join our counseling staff,” said Jessica Mills, director of Counseling and Disability Services at UB. “There’s so much research out there that shows the benefits of animal-assisted therapy. Petting a dog helps to ease stress and helps students to adjust to homesickness, which can be a biggie. They help people feel connected, and they ease the mind for some.”

At two years old, Dani has already been to a few schools and is “very experienced” as a therapy dog, said her owner Dennis Gallagher.

She volunteers in Newton, Connecticut, and was called in to meet with students at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Connecticut, two communities that were shaken by school shootings in the past few years. She meets with patients at Bridgeport Hospital, and listens to children practice reading at local libraries.

After successfully completing extensive obedience training and a rigorous evaluation, Dani passed her “good citizenship” canine test and became certified as a therapy dog with Pet Partners®, a national group. She’s

also certified with Intermountain Therapy Animals.

At UB, she simply listens and snuggles with students who need a furry connection.

Student Vanessa Horgan was among those who welcomed Dani to campus in September. The 20-year-old sophomore said someone came into class at Fones School of Dental Hygiene and spread the news about Dani, so Horgan sought her out.

“I think it’s a really good idea. It makes the campus feel more homey. It makes you feel happy after,” said Horgan. “The more people know about the program, the more they’ll come to see her.”

With drop-in visits, it’s possible that students may not always have one-on-one time with Dani. But “that’s good, too,” Mills pointed out. “Dani can be a way for students to connect with each other.”

From a non-scientific standpoint, snuggling with a dog just feels good. After all, dogs are soft, cute, and judgment-free. Just failed a test? Dumped by a girl-friend? Struggling to find a job to pay for tuition or meet a deadline? Dogs like Dani dispense kindness no matter what.

From a medical perspective, animal therapy works because interacting with pets lowers the stress hormone, known as cortisol, while boosting endorphins, a happiness hormone, research has found.

After volunteering with therapy dogs for 15 years, Gallagher has seen the positive impact dogs can have on those in pain. He said Dani enjoys the work, too, but likes to decompress after hours. “She wears a working vest and understands when she is going to work, but when I bring her home, she’s a dog,” he said. “She runs around.” ■

No appointment necessary: Dani is ready to see students and staff alike.



News Lines

Finding a Cure

New state funding will help biomedical engineering professor fight Lynch Syndrome.

By Leslie Geary



Prabir Patra, director of biomedical engineering at UB, is harnessing nanotechnology to develop advanced treatment and diagnostic procedures for patients who are at risk for certain types of cancer.

When it comes to fighting certain illnesses, small and speedy can be the keys to success.

Fittingly, Prabir Patra, director of Biomedical Engineering at the University, is developing diagnostic technology that uses tiny nanosensors to detect Lynch Syndrome (LS) as early as possible. He is working with Manju Hingorani, a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry at Wesleyan.

LS, a genetic disorder involving malfunction of DNA mismatch repair, substantively increases the risk of colorectal, endometrial, and other cancers. It is thus “extremely important” to diagnose the disease early since that affects treatment protocols for cancer patients with respect to surgery, chemotherapy and ongoing monitoring, said Patra.

The project, cosponsored by Patra and Hingorani, is being funded by a \$324,125 research grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health that was

awarded to Wesleyan. UB was subawarded \$149,152.

About 150,000 patients are diagnosed with colon cancer in the U.S. per year; of that, one in 35 have Lynch Syndrome, and three or more of their relatives are at risk for the disorder. That’s roughly one in 500 Connecticut residents.

Current validated tests for the disease have limitations that lower their feasibility and widespread use in screening at-risk populations.

“How might DNA mismatch-binding and signaling assays be transferred to nanoscale surfaces for greater sensitivity and ease of detection?” said Patra. “This question has a significant implication for colorectal and other cancers. We’re excited to develop a biosensor device that can advance the current standard of care by diagnosing such cancers way in advance.” ■

News Lines

Awarding his Drive

Indefatigable Dominick Pereira slows down a moment to win this year’s Alumni Association Scholarship.

By Leslie Geary



Alumni Board President Dennis Brotheron congratulates Dominick Pereira.

When he was nine, UB junior Dominick Pereira was told he didn’t have much time to live. While he pulled through, Pereira still winds back in the hospital once a year for ulcerative colitis, which nearly killed him.

Pereira’s determination to make the most of the time he was given has only strengthened. “I was given a second chance at life when I was nine, and I feel like my destiny is to help out as many people as I can,” he said. “To me, a successful day is changing someone’s life for the better.”

His tremendous positive impact on and off campus is one of several reasons that the UB Alumni Board of Directors awarded Pereira, 20, this year’s Alumni Association Scholarship. In September, Pereira slowed down from his multitude of activities to receive the \$10,000 award during the University’s Distinguished Alumni Dinner.

The scholarship is given each year to an upper-classman who has a demonstrated financial need, has earned top grades, participates in University activities or performs in community service.

“The real theme about Dominick is giving. He wants to give and he wants to help,” said Alumni Board President Dennis Brotheron ’86. “He’s still living with his

disease, but he’s not only survived, he’s prospering. He’s a remarkable young man.”

Pereira, a double major in psychology and human services, says his current 3.74 GPA is “very important” to him, but he also devotes considerable time to others. He serves as speaker for the Student Government Association, founded the men’s lacrosse club, and works as a peer mentor at Student Support Services, among many other roles he plays on campus.

When he’s home in Nutley, New Jersey, Pereira is a team captain for the local Relay for Life cancer campaign and raises money for the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America. Throughout the year, he devotes weekends at Comfort Zone Camp as a counselor to grieving children who’ve lost a parent or sibling. He also mentors children who have irritable bowel disease.

As he talks about his life—and his ultimate goal to get a PhD and counsel children who suffer from illness or tragedy—it’s clear where Pereira finds his drive. “I got the chance to see that life can be taken away from you, so I look at how valuable it is. Every second is a gift,” he said. ■

A Happy Ending

After tragedy, an education student is honored on the *Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

By Leslie Geary



When thieves took off with more than \$30,000 worth of band instruments—and brutally damaged ones they didn’t bother to take from the school where she teaches music—Melissa Salguero, a master’s degree student at the University of Bridgeport, went online for help.

Among those who were moved by her crowdfunding and YouTube pleas: Ellen DeGeneres, who invited Salguero to attend the taping of her popular afternoon talk show. Salguero was happy to be in the audience, but when DeGeneres called Salguero up front to pay a public tribute to her, Salguero was stunned.

“Advocating for my students on national TV was a once-in-a-lifetime event,” she said. “I couldn’t stop crying.”

The *Ellen DeGeneres Show* aired on September 9, in the middle of Sweeps Week, when networks fight for viewers. Salguero watched the broadcast at the Cox Student Center at UB with her classmates from the School of Education, where she’s earning a Master of Science in Secondary Education with a concentration in music.

The class gathered around a television, nibbled on cupcakes, and marveled at how tragedy launched Salguero into the national spotlight.

“Melissa is an example of the best that the UB School of Education has to offer. Her ability to engage the community in support of her students is a model to all of us in the music education community,” said her professor, Frank Martignetti, director of music education at the School of Education.

Donations brought smiles to UB graduate student Melissa Salguero (top photo) and her students at P.S. 48.

For the past six years, Salguero has been teaching at P.S. 48 in the South Bronx, among the poorest districts in the nation. The average family income is \$16,000 a year, and Salguero commutes over two hours from her home in Bridgeport to get to school by 7 a.m. to lead band practice before a full day of classes. When school lets out, she commutes back to UB to take late-afternoon and evening classes and “usually makes it” on time.

“I love it,” she says. “I want to share my passion and love for music with students.”

But Salguero’s drive was put to the test last April, when thieves took off with saxophones, flutes, horns, an electronic keyboard, and other band instruments that were too costly for the school to immediately replace.

“I used it as a teachable moment to be flexible and be positive,” she said. “If my students saw me distraught and horrified, which I was when I walked through doors that morning, that wouldn’t be good.”

So she logged onto the crowd-funding site GoFundMe.com to raise money for new instruments. Donors chipped in just over \$2,600 toward her \$30,000 goal when DeGeneres handed her a \$30,000 check from Shutterfly.

“My students cannot believe there are people outside of their neighborhood who’ve heard of P.S. 48 and who want to help us. They can’t fathom that. It’s awesome to see. The lesson for them has been if you have a goal or a dream, don’t stop.” ■



News Lines

Open for Business

A much-anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Ernest C. Trefz School of Business signals exciting changes.

By Leslie Geary

Excitement about the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business had been mounting since construction crews began erecting the gleaming new facility at 230 Park Avenue on the University of Bridgeport campus, but the wait is finally over.



Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman (right) helped Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Trefz and UB Board Chairman Frank Zullo officially open the school..

On September 9, at 11 a.m. sharp, dignitaries, students, alumni, and other guests gathered for the historic opening.

UB alumni Marian Heard '63 and trustee Thomas O'Hara '84, who generously provided for the school's Jacobsen Wing Lobby and Raymond O'Hara Auditorium, spoke about what the school means to them.

"My dad came on Father's Day and saw what we did. Six weeks later he passed away," said O'Hara, whose father was former University professor Raymond O'Hara. "It was the happiest Father's Day of my life."

"This is an architectural wonder," Heard added. "This is a momentous occasion. I believe it's going to inspire people to forge ahead in their respective careers and change lives."

Heard and O'Hara were joined by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, State Senator Andres Ayala Jr., Representative Ezequiel Santiago, and Bridgeport City Council Representatives Denese Taylor-Moye and Jack Banta.

David E.A Carson, former CEO of People's United Bank, delivered a tribute to Ernest C. Trefz, a longtime supporter and trustee of the University, for whom the school is named.

"When you look at what Ernie did—he had the ability to take an idea and make it practical. Isn't that the kind of thing we want our young people in business to do?" said Carson. "I firmly believe the Trefz School . . . will produce people who shape the future."

The son of immigrants, Trefz accompanied his German father as he delivered meat and cold cuts to family-run grocery stores in Bridgeport. Though he could not afford to attend college as a young man, Trefz nonetheless learned much by studying his father's clients, who staked life savings to open shops and build a better life in America. Fueled with entrepreneurial drive, he and his brother developed the state's first McDonald's restaurant in Hamden, Connecticut, and many others in ensuing years. He is currently CEO of Trefz Corp.

The business school not only bears Trefz's name, it is putting academic focus on entrepreneurship and the kind of skills Trefz honed naturally over his lifetime as one of the region's most successful businessmen. The Trefz School of Business recently hired seven faculty members, all of whom have practical experience working in business. It also launched its online MBA program in January 2014, with input from leaders from the state's business community.

"As a friend, Mr. Trefz has supported UB and encouraged its success," said UB President Neil A. Salonen. "As a UB trustee, his invaluable counsel has guided the University for over 30 years. As a businessman, he has inspired many well beyond the boundaries of this campus. We are proud to honor his legacy and his vision." ■

Promoting Peace and Understanding

The University and Peace Corps establish one-of-a-kind program to prepare students for the agency's international service programs.

By Leslie Geary



The Peace Corps Preparatory Program launches in 2015.

The University and Peace Corps have established the first academic program in New England to prepare undergraduates for the agency's international service campaigns.

Under the agreement signed on August 27, qualified students in the newly established Peace Corps Preparatory Program will receive a Certificate of Completion from the Peace Corps, granting them special consideration for placement in the Peace Corps upon graduation.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps is the preeminent international service organization of the United States. It has sent over 215,000 volunteers and trainees to 139 countries globally.

The UB Peace Corps Preparatory Program begins at UB in the spring of 2015.

It will be housed in UB's College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA), and will be co-coordinated by Stephen Hess, an assistant professor of Political Science and a former Peace Corps volunteer who served as a foreign language instructor in China from 2006 to 2008, and by Brandon LaFavor, who coordinates overseas studies at the University.

To qualify for placement, UB students in the Peace Corps Preparatory Program must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language, complete five area studies or global affairs courses, and donate 100 hours of volunteer service, either internationally or in the local community.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and a natural extension of the mission of College of Public and

International Affairs," said CPIA Dean Dr. Thomas Ward.

"The College already strongly encourages internships for undergraduates and is committed to the fostering of deepening of international awareness. This is expressed by the involvement by many of our students in National Model United Nations, in overseas study programs, and in the University status as a registered NGO by the United Nations," Ward added.

In addition to the Peace Corps Preparatory Program, CPIA offers six undergraduate programs in Criminal Justice and Human Security, International Political Economy and Diplomacy, Martial Arts Studies, Mass Communications, Social Sciences, and Religion and Politics. Its three graduate programs include Global Development and Peace, East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies, and Global Media and Communication Studies.

CPIA graduates include alumni who currently work for the United Nations Development Program, the Council of Europe, the U.S. Treasury Department, the U.S. Passport Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, among other institutions. Four of its faculty have been chosen as Fulbright Scholars, and since 2007, six of CPIA students have been awarded the highly prestigious U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. ■



Focus on: Larry Jasinski '84

Background: Larry Jasinski holds an MBA from the University and currently serves as the CEO of ReWalk Robotics Inc. The company has designed a revolutionary new exoskeleton that enables paralyzed individuals to walk. From 2005 to 2012, Mr. Jasinski served as President and CEO of Soteira, Inc., which developed products used to treat individuals with vertebral compression fractures. From 2001 to 2005, he was President and CEO of Cortek, Inc., a company that develops next-generation treatments for degenerative disc disease. Prior to that, he served in multiple sales, research and development, and general management roles at Boston Scientific Corporation.

Recent accomplishment: Oversaw ReWalk's IPO on the Nasdaq on September 12. Within days, shares soared by 220 percent. The financial media called ReWalk Robotics, which is based in Massachusetts, Germany, and Israel, one of the "top five IPOs of 2014."

There's been a tremendous amount of excitement about ReWalk. Can you tell us a bit about exoskeleton technology?
The genesis of this particular technology is ReWalk founder Dr. Amit Goffer, somebody who was a particularly good inventor and who became paralyzed. Those combinations gave him a unique perspective. The way the exoskeletons work is a man/machine interface. The user can't walk without the machine and the machine cannot walk without the user. The secrets are the software and the motion-sensor technology. When you want to walk, the exoskeleton's tilt sensor feels someone lean forward and tells the device to walk. The unique system is a combination of the tilt sensor and an elaborate software system that mimics walking and gears and motors that powers the legs.

How big a need is there for this kind of device?
In the U.S. there are 273,000 people who have spinal cord injuries, and every year there are 12,000 spinal cord injuries, most occurring through car accidents or work-related injuries. If you look at a global scale you can triple the number to close to 1 million people

worldwide. Eventually, we believe this technology can work for multiple sclerosis, stroke, or cerebral palsy, and each of those markets is equally big in size. So part of the excitement is knowing there's a large number of users we can probably help. .

The ReWalk exoskeleton has been in use in the EU but it just came on the market for commercial use in the U.S. Is it the only product of its kind here?
We are the first and only product cleared by the FDA for use in the United States. Others will come behind us, but they have a two- to four-year regulatory path ahead of them. We have a bit of a lead. The most significant thing that happened this year was the FDA established a new category for exoskeletons in June, based upon the clinical and scientific data generated by the ReWalk system in its clearance decision.

The ReWalk device was actually featured on the television show Glee in December 2010—way ahead of FDA approval. How did that happen, and did the publicity affect what was happening at the company?
It was very helpful. *Glee* found us through the Internet—in chat rooms as we worked on it in Europe. That made it easier for us as we talked to investors to users. They could see this technology might be real. But many other elements of publicity helped. We met with Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel. We met with President Obama on a visit to Israel in 2013, where our R&D functions primarily. That helped the publicity, so people were aware of it. The actor on *Glee* was not actually paralyzed. The unit on TV was not a functioning unit; it was simply for TV. But we started getting calls after the show aired, and we got an extensive number of inquiries after the FDA clearance. The difference with the FDA is we had crossed the bridge from being a potential idea to having a real product with proven safety. The FDA was a validation.



Has the military shown an interest in it?
Shortly after the FDA approval, we had three initial buyers and many since, including an injured special operations marine who was shot in Afghanistan. We had a person who was injured from the Vietnam era. Her exoskeleton was paid for by the Veterans Association at James J. Peters Medical Center in the Bronx. They will provide the product for any vet who qualifies for it medically. It's the only VA to do so, but I think in the end that will be favorable to everyone as other VA's make their decisions. I do not expect they would want to treat a veteran from Chicago any differently than one from New York. However, at this stage each VA is making its own decision and a national policy has not yet been stated.

Within days of its IPO, ReWalk shares soared 220 percent. What's the biggest pressure for you as a CEO when you've got the financial press calling your company the "hottest IPO" of 2014?
There certainly is great awareness, but I'm much more focused on what we set out to do. All of us at ReWalk have so much passion for what we're doing: providing health in everyday life for those who have spinal cord injuries—that's what drives us. I think the value in our stock was driven by the hope that we give hope to many people to improve their lives.

What's your biggest challenge now? Where do you see the company going and your role evolving in two years?
Our biggest challenge is building a company that can execute. We've already established a very good direct organization in the U.S. and Europe and a key partnership in Asia. The challenge is continuing to build the team. We need to add and attract more talent. The other challenge is while we are very fortunate to have VA reimbursement. We've also had success in Germany with three major insurers choosing to cover it on case by case basis. We need to do achieve similar coverage more broadly in the U.S. because not everyone can afford the product, which is about \$70,000. Our expectation based on the data generated so far is that we will show on a very broad scale that walking again will provide a net cost reduction for the insurers due to the specific savings from a reduction in medications required and a reduction in other expensive complications that occur when you are in a wheelchair for a long period of time.

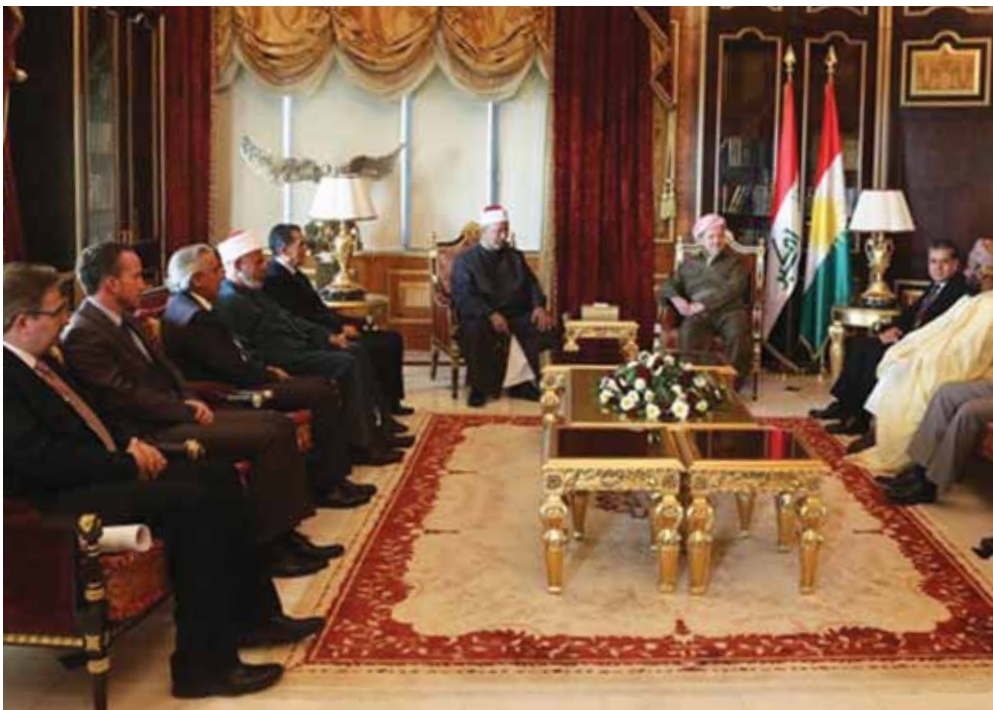
You've spent your career working for companies that develop highly innovative solutions for individuals whose mobility has been compromised. At Boston Scientific you were involved in bringing to market spinal implants used to treat pain and repair fractures. Why?
I'll give specific credit to the University of Bridgeport. When I was coming out of school my interest was product development. At one point, I was offered a job at a big company, and the few professors I'd formed good relationships with at UB told me, 'You'd be better off at a small company that is rapidly advancing.' That led me to Boston Scientific, which at that point was very small. We went from 300 employees and \$18 million in revenue to over 12,000 employees and \$3 billion in revenue due to the many products and markets we developed. I've never forgotten that, and it was because of those professors at UB who talked me out of going to big company. I've never forgotten that.

What advice would you give students currently earning their MBAs at UB?
Everything I've done I've had a high degree of passion for because I've enjoyed it. Everything I've done are products that help people's lives. That's better than making or selling widgets. Bring passion to what you do. Listen to your professors, they can give good advice. They did for me. When you're 23 years old you don't have the same wisdom your professors do. They can help you.

— Interview by Leslie Geary



Faculty Lines



Middle East Matters

Robert Riggs, chair of the Religion and Politics program at the College of Public and International Affairs, has become a regular guest expert on Canadian National TV regarding the ongoing crisis in Iraq.

Dr. Riggs is an authority of Islam and on Shi'ite Islam in particular. Fluent in Arabic and Persian, he has lived in Jordan for three years and has traveled widely in the Middle East—most recently for a conference in Kurdistan about inter-religious dialogue and peacemaking. While there, he and other attendees met with Iraqi Kurdistan President Masoud Barzani. ■ — **Leslie Geary**



Oh Say, Can They Sing!

Fones School of Dental Hygiene Dean **Marcia Lorentzen** and her husband **Bruce** '76 sang the *Star-Spangled Banner* together to open the Bridgeport Bluefish game on August 19 at Harbor Yard. Despite the fact that the Bluefish lost that game to the Long Island Ducks (18-1), the Lorentzens were invited to return and sing at the September 3 game, which the Bluefish won (11-4) against the York Revolution.

Lorentzen is a member of UB's choral group, University Singers, under the direction of **Frank Martignetti**.

"In March, Professor Martignetti forwarded to the entire group information on auditioning to sing the national anthem at a Bluefish Game. My husband and I thought "What fun!" said Lorentzen. "For the past two years we have sung the national anthem at the start of the Connecticut Dental Hygienist's Association Annual Session – the Nutmeg Conference." ■ — **L.G.**

New Dean at Arts and Sciences

Manyul Im, a much-respected professor of philosophy, ethics, and Asian studies, has been named the new dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, effective July 15. In his new role, he will manage 13 departments that offer 27 undergraduate and three graduate programs.

Im most recently served as the Director of the Asian Studies at Fairfield University, where he obtained a grant from ASIA Network and

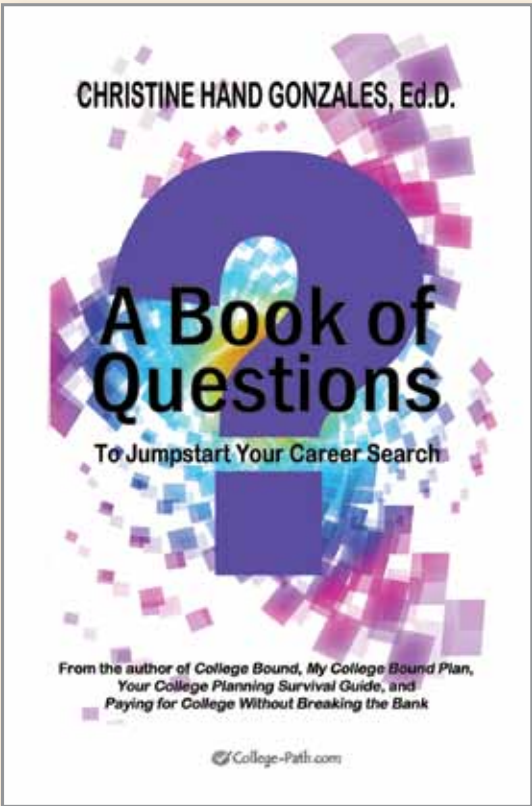
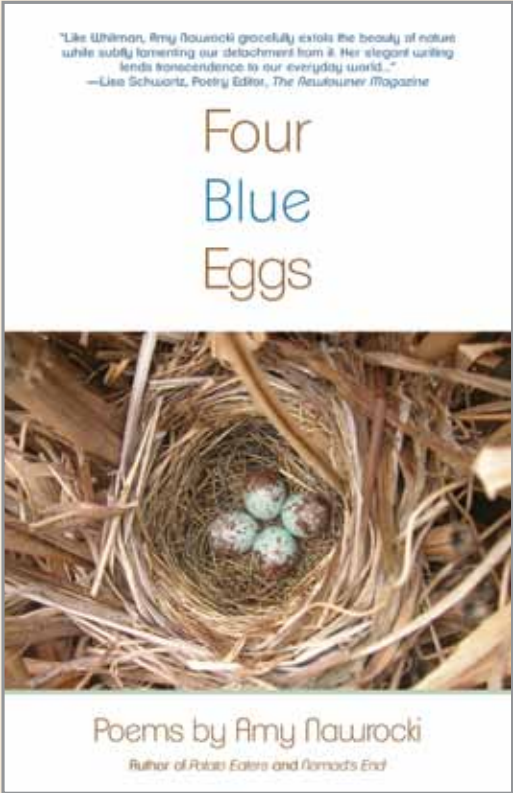
the Henry Luce Foundation to offer a post-doctoral teaching fellowship in Japan studies and founded a relationship with the Korea Economic Institute. He also served as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and taught classes in Asian philosophy.

Im holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley, and master's and Ph.D degrees in philosophy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. ■ — **L.G.**



Book Lines

Four Blue Eggs, by Department of English Senior Lecturer and award-winning poet Amy Nawrocki, intuits fireflies and sapphires, observes gardens rooted in glasses of water, and tests the bindings of old books. Solace abounds—in winter's white, in the hefty doors of an Oldsmobile, in half-melted candles. Birds nest in improbable trees, daughters survive without mothers and fathers. Her poems propose that though "we earn the favor of being by breaking," the pieces are salvageable; bruises heal from the inside through the universe's infinite surrogacy. The collection contemplates how to tether wounds of sadness and how to say goodbye. Nawrocki's collection was a finalist for the Homebound Publications Poetry Prize. She read her work earlier in 2014 for Necessary Voices, the University's lecture series on the arts and ideas.



New to working or looking to change career tracks? You may want to pick up *A Book of Questions to Jumpstart Your Career Search* (College Path Publications) by alumna Christine Hand-Gonzales '80, a longtime college-planning consultant and registered therapist. Written to help students, parents, educators, and anyone entering or re-entering the job workforce, *A Book of Questions* is designed for readers to feel as though they were being personally coached by a professional career counselor. Hand-Gonzales starts with basic questions (What questions to I ask before choosing a major?) before delving into specifics, from tracking down reliable online resources to changing your mind about your job mid-career. *A Book of Questions* is also available as an e-book.

— Leslie Geary

Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own or nominate an alum to be interviewed for a “Focus On” interview? We’re interested in what you’re doing, and so are your classmates! Contact: Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or knightlines@bridgeport.edu. Be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year.

1950

Leon Erwin Schneer passed away on August 7, 2014, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He retired from CBS records in the early 1990s and enjoyed his remaining years with his wife Jane at their lake house in East Texas.

1955

Classmates Leigh **Danenberg, Jr., Jerome Frank,** and **Samuel Marks** recently held a reunion with **Philip Carrubba ’54, Paul Hennion ’56,** and **Gary Singer ’54** and their spouses. “The amazing thing is they all married their UB sweethearts and are still married to them,” Danenberg writes. Five of the six are working part-time.

1965

Toby Ulman Grandberg and her husband Marty are celebrating the birth of their third grandchild, a boy named Jeremiah David Grandberg, who was born to their son and daughter-in-law, Harris and Elana Grandberg. Jeremiah was greeted by the couple’s other grandchildren, Isabella Leah and Sarah Esther Weinstein, children of their daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Shad Weinstein.

“We are glad they all live locally so that we all see each other often,” Grandberg writes. “Marty is still a kosher caterer, and I help him when I can. It is a welcome change for him after a full career

as the executive director of a shared computer center working with a group of hospitals in the Boston area. I’m also retired as a dental hygienist. Is there anyone thinking about going to our 50th reunion? I’d love to hear from any classmates or friends from earlier years at UB at tgrandberg@aol.com.”

1974

Richard E. Glover, is busy as Vice President of Design/Sales for Williams Builder in New Jersey. He writes that over the course of his career, he’s won multiple national awards in residential design and that his work has been featured in many magazines. Now a “happy grandpa” who’s coached sports for his three children. He and his wife, Joanne, live in Princeton Junction, NJ, where he served as the town’s fire chief for many years.

1991

Matthew Steiger, a board member of the UB Alumni Association and an alumnus of the Trefz School of Business, recently earned Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow and Financial Service Specialist designations. They are given to individuals who meet or exceed standards determined by the American College and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIF). Steiger has been active in the financial services profession for 23 years. He’s also a prominent national and local LGBT activist and advocate who has served on various boards, including ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Financial Services Industry Exchange, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, among others.

2009

Carol Ann Malinowski was recently named Chief Financial Officer at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a non-profit botanical research institute in Sarasota, Florida, that is well regarded for its display and study of orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. In her new role, Malinowski, who earned a master’s degree from the Human Nutrition Institute, will oversee financial management, accounting, human resources, risk management, investment portfolio oversight, grant financial reporting, information technology, and facilities maintenance.

2012

Human Nutrition Institute alumna **Kara Ganssle** writes that she recently found a great job working for Pop Weight Loss in Old Saybrook, CT. “I work as the lead nutritionist in the center and counsel clients/give lectures. I absolutely love my job, and just a few weekends ago I had the opportunity to be on NBC with my boss.”



Distinguished Alumnus John Mastroianni '82 and his son Nick



Nick Mastroianni photographs his father, John, receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Distinguished Alumni

This year, UB was proud to honor (from left) Edward Kramer '64, Judge Sheridan Moore '75, Dr. Gail D'Eramo-Melkus '74, George Jenkins '73, and John Mastroianni '82 at the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.



Longtime friends George Jenkins '73, Sheridan Moore '75, and Ralph Ford '75 reconnected at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner.



Mrs. Henry B. duPont, III, and President Neil A. Salonen

Alumni Lines

Reliving (and loving) the '90s!

Class President Scott Miller '92 lures old UB pals back for a party.

By Leslie Geary



From left: Chris Knific '89, Rick DeLisi '91, Dimitry Boss '90, Armando Imbrogno '92, and Lou Cuccurese '92



From left: Elizabeth Carol Winchester '91, Aimee (Kenigsberg) Haber '91, and Debbie Gerber '91

After spreading the word on social media, more than 100 alumni gathered for a much-anticipated reunion in Fort Lee, New Jersey, on September 14.

"We've been advertising and connecting with people for the past three months via Facebook, LinkedIn, and word of mouth. But having that many people attend was awesome," said Scott Miller '92, who single-handedly organized the bash.

Alumni from the Classes of

1989 through 1992 showed up, some traveling as far as Florida to attend the party, which was held at the GW Grill.

It was the perfect setting for alumni who were reminded of raucous nights at Alberto's in Bridgeport. "Everyone said it was just like Alberto's, only with higher ceilings, better bartenders, and no fights," Miller laughed.

The idea for the party formed over the summer, when Miller's wife kicked him off of her Face-

book account and told him to get his own. Soon, he was hearing from old UB pals. Some urged Miller to host a gathering, telling him if anyone could pull it off, he could.

Miller—who was class president at UB and has organized marketing campaigns for Tommy Hilfiger—agreed. He chose Fort Lee, just off of the George Washington Bridge, since it's convenient to reach, and reserved a block of rooms at a local hotel.

To generate excitement, Miller and others posted countdowns to the big event on a special Facebook page.

Thanks to its success, Miller agreed to organize a similar reunion once a year. He said he hopes to see pals who couldn't make it this year, plus beloved faculty members Tracy Riga, Doc Rock, and Hans van der Giessen. ■

#GivingTuesday

Mark your calendar to support UB on December 2!

By Emily Brady

Giving Tuesday, a day of philanthropy celebrating the season of giving, was introduced in the U.S. in 2012. In two short years, its popularity has grown as individuals, friends, and families have come together to support causes that are important to them. Last year, donors gave millions of dollars to non-profit organizations both in the U.S. and around the world.

This year, Giving Tuesday falls on December 2, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. If you choose to participate, consider making your contribution to UB.

Your gift is 100 percent tax deductible, and a contribution of any amount has an impact on campus. Annual Fund dollars are used to create new opportunities for students, enhance the curriculum, and retain top faculty.

You can make your gift online at www.bridgeport.edu/giving any day of the year or send your gift in the envelope provided in this issue of Knightlines. For more information, contact Emily Brady, Director of Annual Giving, at embrady@bridgeport.edu or (203) 576-4542. ■

SAVE THE DATE
BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.
#GIVINGTUESDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2014
www.bridgeport.edu/giving



UB on the Go!

Alumni events are scheduled across the country, and representatives from University Relations are hitting the road to bring you good news and updates along the way!

If you would like to meet with them or help organize an alumni gathering in your area, send an e-mail with your name, class year and contact information at alumni@bridgeport.edu.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Save the date for a Boston Alumni Reception on December 4, 2014.

To find out about other upcoming events, visit www.bridgeport.edu/alumni.



“There’s a lot of debate nationwide about how well student athletes perform in the classroom compared to non-student athletes. Generally, the news isn’t great: kids who aren’t playing sports are outscoring the kids who do. But at UB, the coaches and department are pushing kids to excel in both. Students like Ruben come to the University to achieve a number of goals, and I think that drives them to push themselves academically and athletically.”

—Athletic Director Anthony Vitti

Side Lines

The Smartest Athlete in the Pool

Ruben Gimenez has caught the attention of the NCAA and Goldman Sachs.

By Leslie Geary

Ruben Gimenez enrolled at UB as a computer science major and a hot prospect for the men’s swimming team. Since his arrival in the fall of 2011, he’s made a major splash in and out of the pool.

As a swimmer, Gimenez won national championships in the 100-yard breaststroke and 100-yard freestyle at the 2014 NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving National Championships. In March, he set a school record before adding a second national title with a time of 43.49 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle.

As a student, he wrapped up the 2013-14 year with a 3.98 GPA. It was the highest average on his team and, as it turns out, among the best GPAs among Division-

II men’s swimmers last year.

A lot of people are noticing.

Gimenez now headlines the 2014 Capital One Academic All-America® Division II Men’s At-Large Team, an award comprised of top-performing student athletes who have been selected every year since 1952 by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Just as he was getting the All-America

award, Goldman Sachs tapped Gimenez for its coveted internship program over the summer.

“There’s a lot of debate nationwide about how well student athletes perform in the classroom compared to non-student athletes. Generally, the news isn’t great: kids who aren’t playing sports are outscoring the kids who do. But at UB, the coaches and department are pushing kids to excel in both,” said Athletic Director Anthony Vitti. “Students like Ruben come to the University to achieve a number of goals, and I think that drives them to push themselves academically and athletically.”

That’s the case for Gimenez, who says he sees technology rather than pools in his future.

“There are only about 100 professional swimmers in the world, and if you’re one of them, you’ll only swim for four or five years,” said Gimenez who headed to Manhattan to intern at Goldman just days after he made the All-America At Large Team.

For now, Gimenez is happy to excel as a student and an athlete. “But you have to be good at time management,” he said.

His days start when a buzzer goes off at 6:15 a.m., leaving him enough time for a fast banana before the first swim practice of the day. Then classes. Then back to the pool in the afternoon. He studies when he can but credits his top marks to showing up. “I pay close attention in class,” he said. “Plus, I really like the subject. You can be creative. You can build something.”

This year, for instance, Gimenez designed and built an air-quality monitoring system to test for methane, nitrogen dioxide, and other gasses. What we breathe, he said, has been important to him since he was diagnosed with asthma as a little boy. In fact, asthma was the reason he started swimming.

“It’s a good environment; it’s warm and you use your lungs a lot so they get stronger,” he explained. “When I started, I wasn’t a very good swimmer, but I began to focus on my technique. I got better.” ■



Side Lines

Golf Classic a Smash Hit

Annual tourney raises \$90,000 for UB Athletics.

By Chuck Sadowski

It was a day of fun and fellowship on September 22, when golfers hit the links to raise just over \$90,000 at the Department of Athletics Golf Classic at Race Brook Country Club in Orange, Connecticut.

The 18th annual fundraiser, sponsored by Antinozzi Associates, attracted a record 156 golfers as well as an unprecedented number of sponsors. Proceeds will fund multiple improvements to UB's athletic facilities.

A silent and live auction featured items ranging from luxury suite Yankee tickets, including a limo ride to the Bronx, to an oriental rug. There was also a raffle for fabulous prizes. Dinner, preceded by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres that included a raw bar, topped the day off.

On the course, the foursome of George Perham, Tom Torrenti, Kevin Foley, and Eric Unger took first place in the Handicap Net Prize category with a 54. Pat Hall, Warren Meidrich, Pete Rodrigues, and Adam Dodge were the Gross Prize winners shooting a 59 for the 18 holes.

Pete Rodrigues won the men's longest drive competition, and Edina Oestreicher had the ladies' longest drive of the day. Malcomb MacKenzie won the closest-to-the-hole competition, coming four feet, four inches away from the cup. ■



Athletics Welcomes Two New Head Coaches



Gary Mullin and Sean Raffile bring winning experience to their new posts.

By Chuck Sadowski

There are two new faces directing University of Bridgeport athletic programs this season: head volleyball coach Gary Mullin and new head men's and women's swim coach Sean Raffile.

Mullin comes to the University from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where he served as the Bantams' assistant women's volleyball coach for the past five seasons.

A 1974 graduate of Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Mullin played volleyball for the Bulldogs, receiving All-American honors, and he earned a spot on the United States Volleyball Team at the 1973 World University Games. He previously coached the men's volleyball squad at his alma mater into the NCAA Division I Final Four. Along with his intercollegiate coaching experience, Mullin has also coached at several Connecticut high schools.

Raffile previously worked at Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, where he has served as the Setters' head men's and women's swimming coach for

the for the past three seasons. While at Pace, he coached 10 Northeast-10 Conference champions including the league's 2014 Women's Swimmer of the Year.

Prior to his time at Pace, Raffile served as assistant swimming coach at the United States Merchant Marine Academy from September 2009 through September 2011. Before his stint at USMMA, Raffile garnered Division I head coaching experience at Western Illinois University (2008–2009), where he was named The Summit League's Women's Coach of the Year, and at Wagner College (2005–2008).

He has served as a volunteer assistant swimming coach at the University of Georgia during the 2004–05 season under Jack Bauerle, the head coach for the 2008 USA Olympic women's team. He has also coached with Richard Shoulberg, an assistant coach for the 1988, 1992 and 2000 USA Olympic women's teams.

To stay up-to-date with all of the University of Bridgeport's athletics programs, please visit the UB athletics website at www.ubknights.com. ■

Gary Mullin, head volleyball coach, and Sean Raffile, swim coach, on right

Closing Thought:

Building a Better Argument

By Eric D. Lehman

Most of us would agree that a free exchange of ideas is beneficial to society, and most of us probably agree that the quality of this conversation is poorer than it could be. We just have to turn on the television or, worse, the Internet, to find insults and shouting the norm. Often the answer is to be more civil to each other. But there is more to it than that. There are ways to argue with people with whom we disagree—some better than others. It is something that we teach in liberal arts classes here at the University, but something that informs and enhances every profession.

First of all, we need to find something or someone worth arguing with. After all, there are plenty of terrible ideas out there not even worth our time. For the sake of example, I will choose Ezra Pound's book *ABC of Reading*. This book was written in 1934 but was still very much in vogue when I attended college. Pound himself still has a devoted cadre of followers, and the underlying assumptions of the book continue to resonate in the way English teachers choose material, not to mention definitions of literature itself. It is also a book that contains ideas I once admired, but now find fault with.

The first way to attack an idea is to weaken its author. In this case, Pound himself may have been a literary genius, but shortly after writing this book became an admirer and supporter of Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. So, calling him a "fascist" is the easiest point of attack. Any Internet comment section is full of anonymous posters who attack the person rather than the idea. We can do better than that.

We could scoff at the way Pound structures his argument, with an incoherent and haphazard flow of ideas, using different subheadings and spacing, as if purposefully daring the reader to give up following him. We can attack his snarky tone and we could attack the elite audience he writes for, both apparent in statements like, "Anyone who is too lazy to master the comparatively small glossary necessary to understand Chaucer deserves to be shut out from the reading of good books forever." We could point out hypocrisies and inconsistencies; early in the book he claims to despise critical essays, but the second half of the book is one long critical essay. He attacks analogy, but uses many analogies himself. Television and radio pundits all use these common methods of casting doubt, and they are all effective, if not very edifying.

We could graduate from that to argue with various statements used to build the ideas. For example, Pound states that, "You don't need schools and colleges" to keep "great" writers alive. Though there may be some truth to this, it is a very debatable statement that we could either disagree with outright, or at least question what he means by "great." We could then go further and attack his assumptions, such as his strange notion that all readers are also writers. Challenging these sorts of rhetorical and logical flaws is definitely a better way to argue than some of the other methods listed above. But as a means towards greater wisdom it is probably not very useful.

Moving from the minor flaws to the major ones is another step forward. Pound's principal flaw is in the second half of the book, when he begins to make value judgments of other writers. This sort of partisan personal preference can easily be questioned. For example, he attacks Shakespeare, but lionizes a poet who most of us have never heard of, Walter Landor. This may be due to his own taste for lyric troubadours, something that also leads him to demean American giant Walt Whitman. Pound clearly loves the density of language, but fails to see that the bright parts may shine brighter

because of the surrounding material. So, we might say that Pound cannot see the whole of linguistic expression. Value judgments are easy picking for a debater, and if we're lucky these can sometimes lead to an appraisal or formulation of our own values. On the other hand, they can sometimes make us seem just as petty and arbitrary as the author.

To make ourselves appear more reasonable, we can always give grudging respect on one hand, and criticize on the other. So, we can admit that Pound is careful to point out flaws in his examples, but nevertheless makes statements which seem exaggerated or dated. He is best when pointing out the good, or when talking about the why's and how's of study. He is worst when criticizing others and when putting together a history lesson on poetry.

Of course, in making any of these points we are doing the same thing to Pound as he has done to others in *ABC of Reading*. That is fair enough. However, there is an even better way to argue than all of the above. We could disagree with the fundamental argument, the entire premise, and then formulate our own. So, in this case the premise underlying Pound's book is that aesthetics are useful in choosing what to read, and by extension how to write. We could say instead that aesthetics may be useful for critics and collectors, but for the reader or the writer they are almost useless or even detrimental. We could then back up our claim with examples and logic.

Getting to this fundamental level of the ideas is the most valuable way to argue, not only for challenging our adversary, but for our own life and work. It allows us to go beyond decoding meaning and toward creating it. Therefore, we should engage texts and people with critical powers and debate, to find the good and bad ideas that they grant us, and increase our connections to a larger world. In doing so we may even become wiser and happier human beings.

Eric D. Lehman is Director of Creative Writing at UB and the author of eight books. He loves to argue his point of view but hates getting into arguments. ■



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